

# Annual Operating Instructions

For the  
Teton Basin Ranger District  
Idaho/Wyoming  
Driggs, Idaho

2010

Caribou- Targhee National Forest  
Intermountain Region

**Annual Operating Instructions**

**SIDDOWAY SHEEP COMPANY**  
Thousand Springs S&G Allotment  
2010

PLEASE CONTACT US FIVE DAYS IN ADVANCE OF STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

**Permit Information**

<b>Number of livestock authorized to graze this year.</b>	<b>Season of Use</b>
MDH JC (Correction 1000) 1050 head ewe/lamb	6/20 – 8/10
3 head of horses	6/20 – 8/10

The Thousand Springs allotment is managed as a rest-rotation system consisting of six units. The system is based on grazing five units and resting one unit each year. Spread use out evenly throughout the allotment. Unit number 1 Thousand Springs unit is schedule to be rest this year. The sheep driveway crosses and borders most of the allotment. We would like the resident herd to not graze or camp along the driveway. Please, camp and bed off main trail.

**COMPLIANCE**

This AOI is a yearly agreement that is part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8 (a). It is a working document, and situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

**GRAZING STANDARDS**

The Revised Targhee Forest Plan Standards are as follows:

1. Within the Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ):
  - a. At least four inches of stubble must remain along the hydric greenline (HGL) at the end of the grazing period. The HGL is the first permanent vegetation next to the waters edge.
  - b. Away from the HGL, at least three inches of stubble will be left on the key riparian species at the end of the grazing period.
2. No more than 30 percent use of the current year's growth is allowed on the woody riparian vegetation (i.e., willows)
3. Allowable use on grasses and forbs in the uplands is 45 percent (dry weight); on upland shrubs (i.e., mountain mahogany) it is 35 percent of the current year's growth.

Once these use rates are reached the sheep will have to be moved to the next unit or they may be required to leave the Forest prior to the end of the grazing season. As you know this can be a

concern due to the possibility of a below normal moisture summer ahead. Please consider how you may be able to accommodate your livestock on alternate feed sources if they are required to leave the Forest Prior to the end of the grazing season.

## **OWNERSHIP**

Sheep grazed under the Term Grazing Permit, must be owned by the term permit holder and branded with brand(s) authorized by the permit.

## **RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

Fences and water developments will be maintained prior to Sheep entering the allotment. The Sheep access trails that were constructed through thick stands of brush and trees should be maintained to ensure sheep may utilize available forage in the uplands to lessen the use in the riparian areas.

We would like to review the allotment with you this summer to assess the needs of range improvements and overall management of the allotment. The authorized officer will contact you with a meeting date.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping in the control of noxious weeds. Remember, all livestock feed or straw brought on to the forest has to be certified weed free. We will be treating weeds again this season. Please report to us any new weed patches we have not been treating in the past.

## **MOTORIZED ACCESS**

The Revised Targhee Forest Plan restricts motorized travel to designated routes only. For administrative purposes, grazing permittee(s) will be issued a permit to travel cross-country to maintain facilities for up to two vehicles per week. This permit should be adequate to allow you to repair water troughs, fences, and other range improvements identified in your Term Grazing Permit on pages 6-8. For projects that will require the permittee to travel off designated routes more than two times per week an additional permit will be required. For permittee/public safety and grazing management you will be allowed to park camp off designated route or behind locked gates on trail none during the period none to none. **Remember,** anywhere you drive the public will follow. We will discuss this process further during our spring meeting.

## **ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT**

Good herding practices and wise salt placement will be needed to avoid over use of the riparian areas. No salt should be placed within ¼ mile of any created opening with trees less than 6 feet

5-4-2010  
Date